

TOADS.

John Bull gratifies his hereditary dislike for the French by calling a Frenchman "Johnny Crapaud" - that is, "Johnny Toad." Ask him why, and he will tell you that all Frenchmen are frogs, and that if a frog is not exactly a frog, it is very like one, and that toads and frogs are all "much of a mouchness."

Liquid, which is largely secreted by the bean-shaped bunch on each side of the toad's head, as well as that which is so freely ejected when you suddenly grasp a toad in your hand. Most persons are afraid of these fluids, and imagine them poisonous. They are mistaken. Not even Macbeth's weird sisters could now find venom in the common toad. It is true, however, that these juices have a slightly irritating effect when applied to the eye or to a flesh wound, and that a cat or dog does not like to take a second taste. But they are substantially harmless.

And fairly obliging me to check my horse, or crush them by hundreds. My humanity made no impression on a flock of depraved ducks and ducklings that followed this phalanx of frogs, and gobbled these batrachian infants up (or down), with appetites that seemed insatiable. Such of these juvenile reptiles as escape the early trials of migration and transmigration grow rapidly in size, and some of them attain to a good old age. Toads, known to be fourteen, fifteen, or sixteen years old, are not uncommon. Pennant gives a very interesting account of one that was domesticated in an English family for upwards of six-and-thirty years. His favorite abode and winter retreat was under the house door-steps. Of course he burrowed there, and remained out of sight except in warm weather. He knew his master, and would come forth at his approach. At candle-light he came out regularly to receive his supper. Often, to gratify curious visitors, he was brought into the house and placed on the table for exhibition, manifesting the utmost coolness and self-possession in polite society, and setting with wonderful celerity every inch of his body for the entertainment of his guests.

Edward Stanley. In June, 1830, he confined three toads, each in a flower-pot, and buried them four feet deep. In the following March they were all dead. Then he corked up two others in glass bottles, one hermetically closed, the other with a small hole in the stopper. The first died in forty-eight hours; the other seemed to be dying in about a fortnight. He was then unbottled, put under a flower-pot on moist garden-earth, grew lively, and was set at liberty. In words that sound like mockery this clergyman says: "I had the pleasure of seeing it crawl out of its every symptom of entire convalescence." Tortures inflicted for so trifling a purpose, and ending in results so worthless, almost make one wish that, for a while at least, the toads and their tormentors could have been made to change places. Which of them would have then believed that "not a sparrow falleth to the ground without your Heavenly Father's notice"?

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English poetry is full of slanders upon toads. Even Shakespeare, like all others in his day, and most others since, looked upon toads as poisonous, as appears from that charming passage in As You Like It:-

"Woe is the use of adversity. Which, like a diamond, is a jewel in the eye, and wears yet a precious jewel in his head; and is further manifest in the Witches' incantation, in Macbeth:-

"Toad, that under cold stone, Days and nights his thirty-one Sweetener venom sleeping on, But that great snake of poison!

"This being a new enterprise, the Par is assumed as the market value. Samuel E. Stokes, William G. Hamilton, Edward Paulding, John H. Penrose, James Traeger, Henry C. Jones, Jr., James C. Hand, William C. Ludwig, Joseph E. Lee, George G. Leiper, Hugh Craig, John D. Taylor, Henry Lyburn, Secretary.

1859-CHARTER PERPETUAL. Franklin Fire Insurance Co. OF PHILADELPHIA. OFFICE: 208 AND 217 CHESTNUT STREET. ASSETS JANUARY 1, 1867, \$2,553,146.13.

PHILADELPHIA BOARD. Lemuel Coffin, Esq., Charles S. Smith, Esq., Joseph W. Lewis, Esq., Henry A. Duhring, Esq., Edward Sizer, Esq. All losses promptly adjusted without reference to England.

"Squat like a toad close to the ear of Eve, Assaying by his devilish art to reach The organs of her fancy; Or, if inspiring venom, he might tempt The animal spirits, etc.

"The great poet of the 'Paradise Lost' permits the devil to assume the form of three different animals, all objects of popular hate and disgust, and all classified from time immemorial among monsters, or beasts of malignant aspect and evil men. He doubtless remembered that Virgil in his Georgics (l. 184) - even Virgil, whose knowledge of agriculture should have taught him not merely the harmlessness, but also the insect-killing value and helpfulness of the toad - calculates that much-abused reptile as a monster:-

"In hollow caverns vermin make abode, The hissing serpent and the swelling toad."

"I have written encouragingly to my correspondent, and in due time hope to receive a supplemental report. - Harper's Monthly.

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"And as she entered the cavern wide And saw a snake on the craggy rock - It clung by its slimy tail! Her foot is slipped, and she stood aghast, She trod on a blooded toad, And yet still upheld by the secret charm, She kept upon the road."

"The toad's eyes were wonderfully bright and beautiful; yet not of them has it ever been said, in the undefined language of Keats - 'A thing of beauty is a joy forever.'"

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